/25 cont./

*795 refrigerator, radio, power plant, powerful American cars, etc
793 .... Certain ones even own real estate in Dakar which they rent for a good price, increasing their revenues by that much more.

If this standard of living is the result of the attachment and the fanatical work of the talibés, reciprocally this luxury increases their prestige in the eyes of these same talibés. These simple people see in this exterior wealth a sign of the greatness, power, and glory of their marabout. They are proud to see him rich and influential, as if they themselves participated in this wealth and influence.

Still another anecdote will underline, it seems, this blind admiration of the faithful for their religious leaders in spite of (and perhaps because of) the exterior signs of their wealth.

The domestic servant of a European official had accompanied his employer to Touba, to the home of Failou M'Backé. Thus he could enter the carré of "his" marabout (for he was a Murid). Upon returning, he said to his employer in a tone of sincere admiration and without a critical afterthought: "My
●[352] marabout is a great marabout; his carré has many bedrooms
[513] and in each bedroom there is a good bed." When one knows that the majority of the Blacks usually sleep on wretched pallets or even on mats, and that to possess a good bed is one of the first objectives of the African who advances, one will appreciate the full value of this remark...

793 After that no one will be surprised that some people have
*795 labeled as "servitude" the situation which the Murid marabouts
244 reserve for the talibés who work on their plantations. They are,
555 in fact, grouped in teams of ten to 20, and each team has a piece of land to cultivate. Of course the teams compete zealously to bring to the marabout the handsomest harvest. The zeal of the teams is all the greater because each member can hope, if the marabout notices his own zeal, to be initiated at the end of several years to the Murid diku and to have in his turn a Murid village to superintend. He can even hope to have assigned to him a new area to be attached to the brotherhood

S SR /379 cont./
369 and at Diakhaté where the hut of straw or purely of mud
[342] prevails. Could it be that the occupation of mason to which
W some None seem to devote themselves is a factor in this
[342] modernization of their settlements?

SR A certain "coquetry" absent in the bush villages leads
[463] some autochthones to lay out a little flower garden near their
S hut (Tiali, Keur-Issa-Bambara)..
[351]

The presence of the city is also reflected in the equip-
S ment used by the rural people. The furniture is always sum-
369 mary, but more and more the iron bed is replacing the lat-
352 tice of wood or the mat put on the ground itself. A mattress,
[513] a military blanket, and commonly a mosquito net of a very light fabric complete this relative comfort. Often a little table of unpainted wood, a chair made of old boxes, a bit
S of mirror hung on the wall, and sometimes an impressive
[353] number of photographs, or, lacking them, pages cut out of an illustrated magazine pasted to the walls, give a special stamp to this interior, which is no longer typically rural. Sometimes one even has the surprise of encountering in these modest interiors a wardrobe and a little buffet, which adorn, the more since they are not utilized, the room of a privileged native. But this comfort is an exception.

S The calabash, which is the very foundation of the
369 kitchen utensils, is still commonly utilized for household
415 tasks and for the common meals. Nevertheless the cast-iron or aluminum saucepan is no longer a luxury; the glass and above all the bottle are in common use.

S The clothing, too, has been modified. The loincloth
369 in bright colors, laboriously woven by the Toucouleur
291 /Tukolor/ weaver, durable but expensive, has become a
177 luxury. Imported printed cloth of moderate price has sup-
planted it everywhere. The white robe with embroidery has
S become the festive garment par excellence; the shorts, the
[292] trousers, and the jacket, often furnished by the European, are now the clothes utilized for work.

/425 cont./

*511 291 [292] [796] reach it, by ignoring the tradition that one should have new clothing for the celebration of Tabaski. Some expenses seem slightly exaggerated. The head of family No. 11, who dresses very modestly himself, each year presents a sumptuous new gown to his wife, who moreover demands it, although she can rarely wear it. The 8,000 francs for No. 1, on the contrary, are justified by the size of his restricted family: seven persons.

Nevertheless it is surely possible to reduce these expenses. [183] But opinion requires that one have new clothing to show at times, and it is difficult to pass unnoticed in an African city of average size.

*511 After this threshold of 15,000 francs of monthly income, we encounter figures for impressive expenses. No. 27 devotes as much as 48,000 francs to his clothing. No. 30, 65,000 francs, the same as No. 36. From No. 34 on, all exceed 40,000 francs per year. For some, that may be justified by the size of the family; No. 36 has 15 persons under his care, for whom practically all of this is necessary. The restricted family alone of No. 40 contains 15 persons; that of No. 42, 11. For the others we could only verify the facts, leaving to the psychologists and sociologists the task of explaining them; No. 34 earns 25,000 francs per month and devotes 65,000 francs to the clothing of four persons, 22.5% of his income. This budget nevertheless has a surplus, but only of 3.7%, in the midst of a series where they are much greater. We now have the explanation for it.

/426/ We have grouped under the rubric "Equipment" (Table XIV) dissimilar elements which have the common character of being of some utility and, if not purchased once and for all, at least not needing to be renewed for a rather long period, for example, furniture, kitchen equipment, bedding, etc. ... The sums that are devoted to them are generally of little importance. The purchase of a Madagascar stove or of some glasses, however, is a heavy burden on an income below [452] 10,000 francs. These things are generally not purchased on credit.

[352] The piece of furniture that we found most often in our

/426 cont./

*511 lists is the bed (1). In nearly all of the African lodgings we
352

1. The 13.3% of the cultivator, No. 32, arose from the purchase of a cart and a horse.

find at least a bed, but there is rarely one for everyone. And
[369] to sleep in a bed has become the best proof that one can give of his acclimatization to the city.

If the income is higher, one may be able to buy more important pieces of furniture. Then, in the order of their urgency, the armchairs, the rugs, and then the tables and wardrobes appear.

*511 Then we come to the rubric "Exceptional Expenses," those for which no absolute necessity is felt. Moreover they are rarer at the top of the table, only three, and then they multiply (Table XIV).

[405] The first thing that we find here is the watch or the alarm
[301] clock, closely followed by the jewelry of the wife or wives.
[493] There follow, but only in the highest incomes, the bicycle,
[207] or, depending on the possibilities, the bicycle with a motor
[301] on it or the motorcycle, then the battery radio. There is nothing very original in all this, and, except perhaps for the importance given to the jewelry of the women, we would find similar pretensions among European families having equivalent incomes.

*511 In the last table (Table XV)[1] we have grouped a series of
794 expenses that have a common origin, the religion of the fami-
[791] lies investigated, all Moslems except one. Two Moslem holidays are involved, Tabaski and Korité, religious assessments, /427/ /Table XIV appears here/ /428/ offerings to the marabouts, and, finally, expenses arising from sending children to the Koranic school.

*511 For Tabaski, each family slaughters a sheep. There
796 1/1 [See cat 116, pp 69-71. ANALYST]

/191 cont./

511 limit of reasonable occupancy has been passed when one
362 figures an average of more than two persons per room. Thus at the left of this line are the households which do not exceed this relation of one room for two persons, at the right those for whom occupancy becomes crowded. Now let us add all the figures at the right of the line of separation, and let us refer this total of "crowded" homes in each table to the general total. One finds that this result, which one may call the "index of occupancy," is much higher in the districts
162 than in the quarters: 26.4% as against 45.2%. This phenome-
592 non indicates that the families are much more /192/ /Table
511 25 appears here/ numerous in the districts. It is possible to
362 verify this in two ways: first, by comparing the average number of persons per household, which gives 7.43 as against 4.86; or else by constructing from the preceding tables the histogram of the various families in percentages. One then finds that in the first case the median runs between seven and eight persons, and in the second between four and five; in other words, that 47% of the homes in the districts have at least eight persons, while in the quarters one counts only 47% of the homes with five or more persons.

511 The same tendency is shown in the matter of the rela-
352 tion of the furnishings to the number of persons. We have therefore drawn up a table identical to the preceding one and substituted the number of beds for the number of rooms, for it is the bed that constitutes the principal article of furniture. Obviously the data obtained do not have the same value, since it has not been possible /193/ /Table 26 appears here/ to distinguish the various kinds of beds: beds in one or two places, wooden or metal springs. Nevertheless, it is shown that the ratio of the number of persons to the number of beds is higher in the districts than in the quarters. The total result is the following: in the former 47, in the latter 38 beds per 100 persons. One finds only five or six instances where the bed is nothing but a simple mat thrown on the beaten earth in the huts of the quarters.